

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are all the claims pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections -35 U.S. C § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 13-24 under § 112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner contends that claims 1-2 and 13-14 lack antecedent basis. Claims 2-6 and 15-18 are rejected as being dependent upon rejected claims 1-2 and 13-14. Claims 13, 14, 19, 20 and 24 were rejected as failing to clearly recite an apparatus or a method. Claims 7 and 19 were rejected for ambiguity and indefiniteness.

In view of the self-explanatory amendments to correct for a lack of antecedent basis, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the claim rejections of claims 1-2 and 1-14.

Regarding claims 13-24, Applicant has amended these claims to read as more clearly as method claims. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Regarding claims 7 and 19, these claims were amended to add a proper antecedent basis and to provide clarifying language.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-7 and 13-24.


Conclusion

Applicant also notes that claims 9-11 and 21-23 have been rewritten in independent form incorporating all the features of any base and intervening claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



David P. Emery
Registration No. 55,154

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 14, 2006